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TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 9, 1954

The Slaters left us this morning to visit Portugal. We have had a delightful companionship.

I went to see Jimmy Dunn at his office. He thinks Spain the most unspoiled and fascinating of all countries. He says the Spanish Republicans' broadcasting from their Toulouse radio station has caused most of the unpopularity of the French in Spanish eyes, as has also the lack of consultation by the French Government of the Spanish Government over Moroccan affairs. The British are likewise in the doghouse because of nationalistic sentiment here about Gibraltar. For the present, at least, the United States is moderately popular.

We went this afternoon to see the convent at Carabanchel, where Therèse Tallien was reputedly born, although some writers claim she was actually produded during a ball at the French Ambassador's. At any rate, this magnificent country place, about ten minutes' drive from the center of Madrid, was the house of her father, the famous financier François Cabarrus, and later of his relatives the Montijos and Albas, including the Empress Eugènie. E. had long wanted to see it. The original eighteenth century house has been overlaid and distorted to suit ecclesiastical uses. The gardens, partly surrounded by a brick wall, must have been superb. The sisters of the Oblata order were sweet to us. When we left the Mother Superior and her assistant kissed E., and blessed us, calling her Senorita and me her "Papa". I thought it best not to disillusion them!

Chased around the bookshops tonight, trying to locate items on Cabarrus. I struck one cold trail. Did some miscellaneous shopping. The stores are open from ten to one and from four to eight. Prices, especially for clothing, food and leather goods are much cheaper than in Paris. Madrid has increased in population within twenty years from 500,000 to 1,500,000 inhabitants.

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